

Testimony of
Harrison H. Solt III, 110 Vinegar Hill Road Gales Ferry, CT 06335-1713;

Public Safety and Security Committee Public Hearing
Thursday March 3, 2016

General Assembly Proposed Bill H. B. 5408

AN ACT CONCERNING THE PRESENTATION OF A CARRY PERMIT.

To require the holder of a permit for the carrying of any pistol or revolver to present such permit upon request of a law enforcement officer.

Introduction:

My name is Harrison Solt. I live in Gales Ferry and have been a resident of Connecticut since 1975. I am a retired United States Naval Officer, an owner and handler of firearms for my entire adult life and a member of the National Rifle Association. I currently hold a valid Connecticut state permit to carry pistols or revolvers.

House Bill 5408 comments:

I speak in opposition of House Bill 5408. Such a bill as written would be a violation of the Fourth Amendment of the United States Constitution. The Fourth Amendment provides for the right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effect, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause.

Demanding presentation of one's permit upon request of a law enforcement officer, without probable cause, constitutes a violation of privacy and rights and infers a guilt of a law abiding citizen while in the lawful conduct of their legitimate action and personal business. Such demands without probable cause borders on unlawful restraint and harassment.

The ability of a law enforcement officer to basically walk up to an individual and say "I believe you are carrying a firearm, I want to see your state permit to do so" is an unnecessary and unproductive act, a violation of the individuals Fourth Amendment rights and simply put another means for the bureaucracy to continue to mine data and gather information on the general populace. This should not be allowed.

The acquisition of a Connecticut State Permit to Carry Pistols and Revolvers is a very laborious and costly process for the permittee. It is the responsible and law abiding individual who complies with this permit process and law. A very process and law some consider punitive and purposefully designed to control and limit the right of the people of Connecticut to keep and bear Arms as provided for in the Second Amendment of the United States Constitution. Further restrictions and harassment of this group should not be undertaken by passage of H. B. 5408.

The Liberal Establishment and Civil Liberties advocate groups took great pains to publicize, criticize, and rally against the New York City policing policy of "stop and frisk". In the end their effort was seen as just and successful in eliminating the program and practice. The new language in H. B. 5408 in essence put a very similar practice into effect in the State of Connecticut for law abiding citizens who have complied with the statutes and have a State permit to carry a pistol or revolver.

Closing remarks:

I respectfully recommend and request that Proposed House Bill 5408 not be approved nor forwarded out of Committee. Thank you very much for this opportunity to provide testimony before your Committee.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "H. H. Solt" followed by a stylized flourish or arrow pointing to the right.

Harrison H. Solt III

Cc:
Honorable M. France; House Dist 042
Honorable C. Osten; Senate Dist. S19